

# TOTES **HEAVY** BURDEN

By Joe Sonnenblick

**WHY I LIKE IT:** *Poetry editor Hezekiah writes: This poem has such a curious impact on me: We wind up right inside Sonnenblick's head and it's scribed so beautifully. For me, he is a stranger in a small local bar seeing a not so incidental commemorative plaque, sentimental to few and representative of many, and writes to the family this not-so- anonymous ode... ”from Brooklyn, Salud.”*

## **Totes Heavy Burden**

I put down my drink,  
The sweat rolling off the glass in this hot room.  
Reflections of a walk I took in Greenpoint  
Passing attached houses full of mirth, truth, rape, excoriation,  
All closed doors.  
A window held a plaque for Stanley,  
A Stanley I didn't get to know  
1948-1969 the inscription read “Always our son and brother”  
Vietnam.  
I can only hope it was quick, Stanley  
All those guys and gals  
All those innocent Vietnamese.  
This is my proclamation  
This my cavalcade  
Fifty-One years later,  
Someone remembered  
Someone cared.  
Thanks Stanley from Brooklyn,  
Salud.

**THE POET SPEAKS:** *‘Totes Heavy Burden’ was inspired by one of the oddest weekends of the year. I felt a kinship to a person I'd never met, and Stanley who was real, who met his demise in this horror show of a war. It all came rushing to*

*me when I saw the plaque hanging in that lone window. Stylistically I am influenced by Anne Waldman, Robert Creeley, Louise Gluck, Charles Bukowski, and Richard Brautigan respectively. Poetry is important because it feeds something that the normalcy of life cannot nourish. I write because I have to and that's the truth. I've been consistently writing since I was sixteen years old, and I'm realizing that poetry is also the discovery of something new every single day.*

**AUTHOR'S BIO:** My name is Joe Sonnenblick. I'm a born and raised Brooklynite who has been featured in multiple E-magazines such as "The Reject" and "Citizen Brooklyn".

I have read up and down the east coast including being featured at the poets house in Tribeca.

I believe in plain speaking as a poet, and not mucking up the work by trying to please others. Big fan of humanity.